

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 1-15 and replaces the original sheets with Figs. 1-15.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19-31 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, the figures are corrected in accordance with Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review. Claims 1, 14 and 15 are amended to correct an informality and not in response to any rejections contained in the November 3 Office Action.

I. Formal Matters

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the October 10, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement, as well as the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 12, 2004.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on October 10, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to initial and return Form PTO-1449 .

II. The Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-14 under U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. 2002/0018164 to Ko et al and JP 63-274929 to Matsushita et al., claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AAPA, Ko and Matsushita and further in view of US 6,521,913 to Murade, and claims 15, 18 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ko in view of Matsushita. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

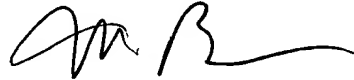
Applicant notes that the filing date of Ko, June 26, 2001, is antedated by priority document JP 2002-238699, filed August 7, 2000 and JP 2001-183863 filed June 18, 2001. Certified translations of the priority documents are attached to the January 12, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/ale

Attachments:

Copy of IDS and PTO-1449 filed 10/10/03
Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1-15)
Certified Translation of Priority Documents

Date: January 15, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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